


eLurong

16 October 1979

Memorandum for 

STAT

Subject: Your Article on Intelligence Failures
(Circa 12 October 1979)

I have read your paper (though only rapidly) and think that it makes a valuable contribution, especially in the last couple of pages on remedies.

I offer some comments on the paragraphs I numbered.

1. Not all analyses I have seen generalize from a single case (e.g., George and Smoke, Knorr, some Israeli authors).

2. Betts would agree with you on this. I am sure that he believes all intelligence bureaucracies are inherently incapable of doing much better.

3. Your graph is insufficiently explained.

4. Betts might reply that this just goes to show that substantial improvement is not in the cards.

5. Good point.

6. Right. But will (can it) be done?

7. Good point.

8. Even better point.

But, overall, I am not sure you have demonstrated that Betts is dead wrong. Also regarding your remedial measures (well taken!), he might question whether they are capable of implementation.

STAT